

Golden Valley 2003

CityNews

Envision: Your Chance To Help Guide GV's Future

The strength of a community is based on how well it reflects the goals and aspirations of its people. *Envision Golden Valley* is a chance for people who live, work, and play here to share their ideas about the future of Golden Valley. Change is inevitable. Will you be a participant or an observer?

More than 60 citizen volunteers have worked since April to develop *Envision Golden Valley*, and now they're looking for their neighbors and coworkers to show up and contribute.

How To GET INVOLVED

If you have ideas or opinions about how you'd like Golden Valley to be in 10 or 20 years, this is your chance to share them. *Envision* makes it easy by providing three opportunities to participate—*Envision Online*, *Envision-In-A-Box*, and the *Envision Summit*. Do one, two, or all three.

PARTICIPATE ONLINE *Envision Online* allows you to participate without physically attending meetings. Log on to the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/Envision.htm and share your views and ideas electronically. Results will be integrated into the *Envision Summit*.

ORGANIZE A SMALL GROUP MEETING If collaboration is more your style, get some friends or neighbors together and do *Envision-In-A-Box*. Getting started is easy—just decide who to invite, arrange for a meeting space, and call *Envision's* volunteer coordinator to schedule a time. Plan for two hours of stimulating discussion about the future of your community.

(*Envision*, CONTINUED PAGE 5)

let
your
ideas
bloom



City Council Will HAVE Two NEW FACES

The Golden Valley City Council will have two new members when it reconvenes on January 6, 2004. The November 4 City election returned incumbent Mayor Linda Loomis, who ran unopposed, and added Bob Shaffer and Mike Freiberg, who topped a field of five candidates to replace Council Members Jan LeSuer, who did not seek reelection, and Gloria Johnson, who was defeated.

Shaffer has lived in Golden Valley for 14 years and is president of The Foundation Architects. He holds a degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Freiberg, a life-long resident of Golden Valley, is a third-year law student at William Mitchell College of Law in St Paul and a law clerk for Mansfield, Tanick, and Cohen PA. He has a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University.

Loomis has been a resident of Golden Valley since 1956 and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota. She is currently a part-time playground paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Elementary School.

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Table 1

YEAR 200X

Market Value (MV)	
Residential	\$1,728,000,000
C\I	380,000,000
Tax Base (TB)	
Residential (MV x 1%)	\$17,280,000
C\I (MV x 2%)	7,600,000
Total	\$24,880,000
City Tax Levy (TL)	\$11,355,000
City Tax Rate (TL ÷ TB)	÷ \$24,880,000
	= 45.60%
MV of Golden Valley Home	\$220,000
TB of Golden Valley Home (MV x 1%)	\$2,200
City Tax (\$2,200 x 45.60%)	\$1,003

Market Value: How It Relates To Property Taxes

One of the least understood aspects of the property tax system is the relationship between market value and property taxes. Many taxpayers believe that if their market value increases 15%, for example, then their tax bill will increase 15% and the City will automatically receive this much more revenue. This is not the case. The City receives the amount of taxes it levies in a given year, no more and no less. Market value is just one of the non-levy factors that determines how much of the levy each property will have to pay.

The tables on this page show two examples of the relationship between market value and property taxes.

SETTING THE SCENE

Table 1 represents a hypothetical example of the calculation of City property tax. In the calculation of property taxes, market value is converted to tax base in order to calculate the tax rate. The example in Table 1 assumes that there are just two classes of property, residential and commercial\industrial (C\I).

INCREASING MARKET VALUE, STATIC TAX LEVY

The example in Table 2 assumes that in the following year, the market value of every property in the City increases 50% but the tax levy remains the same. As a result, even though there was a 50% increase in market value, there was no impact on the tax bill.

Tax Shifting

Changes in market value have an impact on residential tax bills when the market value of one class of property increases at a different rate than another class. This situation is called tax shifting. Since residential market values are currently increasing at a much faster rate than C\I values, tax shifting will have a major impact on residential tax bills for 2004 and beyond.

The example in Table 3 assumes that in year 200Y the market value increases 12% for residential property and 4% for C\I property. As you can see, even though the tax levy stayed the same, the tax on the average home increased from 200X to 200Y.

When analyzing proposed 2004 tax bills, residential taxpayers should be aware that the indicated increase results from a number of factors, including the proposed increase in the City tax levy and the impact of the shift in tax burden from C\I property.

QUESTIONS

For more information about Golden Valley's tax levy or how property taxes are figured, contact City Finance Director Don Taylor at 763-593-8012, or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/taxes.htm.

Table 2

YEAR 200Y

Market Value (MV)	
Residential	\$2,592,000,000
C\I	570,000,000
Tax Base (TB)	
Residential (MV x 1%)	\$25,920,000
C\I (MV x 2%)	11,400,000
Total	\$37,320,000
City Tax Levy (TL)	\$11,355,000
City Tax Rate (TL ÷ TB)	÷ 37,320,000
	= 30.43%
MV of Golden Valley Home	\$330,000
TB of Golden Valley Home (MV x 1%)	\$3,300
City Tax (\$3,300 x 30.43%)	\$1,003

Table 3

YEAR 200Y

Market Value (MV)	
Residential	\$1,935,360,000
C\I	395,200,000
Tax Base (TB)	
Residential (MV x 1%)	\$19,353,600
C\I (MV x 2%)	7,904,000
Total	\$27,257,600
City Tax Levy (TL)	\$11,355,000
City Tax Rate (TL ÷ TB)	÷ 27,257,600
	= 41.66%
MV of Golden Valley Home	\$246,400
TB of Golden Valley Home (MV x 1%)	\$2,464
City Tax (\$2,464 x 41.66%)	\$1,026

Mailbox To The North Pole

Until December 12, children can drop off letters to Santa Claus in the special direct-to-the-North Pole mailbox in the Park and Recreation office at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway. Santa's helpers will pick up the letters each evening and deliver them straight to the North Pole. Santa requests that letters include the full name and address of each sender so he and his helpers can reply.



JWC Closes In On Water System Decision

The Joint Water Commission (JWC) Cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, and New Hope have spent the past year studying options for a future water supply that will provide customers with water of comparable quality for a lower price than currently supplied by the City of Minneapolis. In October, about 300 people attended technical presentations and had their questions answered at three informational open houses hosted by the JWC. Now, as the JWC's technical consultants complete their analysis of the options, the JWC Board and the Crystal, Golden Valley, and New Hope City Councils prepare to make a final decision.



The JWC Board decided early on that it would not construct its own water system unless it could achieve water quality that is comparable to the current water supply. The lime softening process under consideration would produce treated ground water that is of comparable quality to the treated Mississippi River water currently provided by the City of Minneapolis. Residents would not need to purchase home water softeners.

In September, JWC consultants conducted an aquifer test to calculate the impact a new JWC water system would have on neighboring communities that also use the Prairie du Chien/Jordan aquifer for their water supply. Results indicate that the aquifer rebounded very quickly following prolonged pumping from an existing well on the General Mills campus in Golden Valley.

Meanwhile the JWC has been working on another option—negotiating with the City of Minneapolis on a price to blend water produced by a potential JWC water system with water from Minneapolis to accommodate JWC water needs during peak demand periods. The City of Bloomington already has a successful water blending arrangement with Minneapolis. A third option would be to negotiate a more favorable price to continue buying all JWC water from Minneapolis.

To help the JWC accurately assess each option under consideration, the technical consultants are conducting an independent peer review to confirm project costs, unit processes, and finished water quality criteria for both JWC stand-alone and blended systems. Because the JWC's current year-to-year agreement with the City of Minneapolis expires at the end of 2003, the three city councils hope to make a decision on the JWC's future water supply in early 2004. Minneapolis officials would like a decision so they can plan for their capital projects.

For more information on the JWC, go to www.jwcontap.org. If you have questions about the JWC and its activities, contact Golden Valley Public Works Director Jeanine Clancy at 763-593-8035.

golden ridge Update

The Golden Valley Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will consider an agreement in December with Bullseye Development to build 16 units of housing (eight market rate and eight Habitat for Humanity homes) on the former Sheriff's Pistol Range Site in northwest Golden Valley. This agreement is contingent on reaching a final agreement with Hennepin County to purchase the site. For more information, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/development.htm, or call Assistant HRA Director Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for another way to be involved in your community? Members of Advisory Boards and Commissions recommend policy to the City Council and advise the Council on a variety of diverse issues. You must be a Golden Valley resident to apply. For more information or an application, call Judy Nally at 763-593-3991 or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/boards.htm.

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)—Hears requests for variances from the city code (zoning). Meets monthly.

Building Board of Review (BBR)—Advises, recommends, and assists on building codes and the issuance of building permits. Meets twice a month.

Civil Service Commission (CSC)—Controls and supervises employment, promotion, discharge, and suspension of police officers. Meets annually and on call.

Environmental Commission (EC)—Advises and recommends in matters relating to and affecting the environment in Golden Valley. Meets monthly.

Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF)—Plans and holds fundraisers and events to meet identified human service needs in the community. Advises on fund allocation. Meets monthly.

Human Rights Commission (HRC)—Advises, recommends, and assists in matters of equal opportunity and elimination of discriminatory practices. Meets monthly.

Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council Advisory Commission (NHH-SCAC)—Serves as the planning and coordinating body for 15 northwest cities on human service delivery. Meets monthly.

Open Space and Recreation Commission (OS&RC)—Advises, recommends, and assists in policies and plans relating to open space needs, parks and recreation programs, trail systems, and Brookview Golf Course. Meets monthly.

Planning Commission (PC)—Advises, recommends, and assists Council in matters relating to planning and growth of the City (including the social, economic, and physical environment). Meets twice a month.

Holiday Notice

Recycling pick-up the week of the Christmas and New Year holidays will be one day later than usual. Have your recyclables at the curb by 7 am Saturday, December 27 and Saturday, January 2.



The Golden Valley Recycling Program is partially funded by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

24-Hour Recycling Info-Line

Features recorded answers to your recycling questions 24 hours a day. Just call 763-593-8119 to reach the Golden Valley Recycling Information Line (directions for rotary phone users are on the message). For information on:

- curbside recycling, press 1
- apartment recycling, press 2
- yard waste disposal, press 3
- household hazardous waste disposal, press 4

763-593-8119

Missed Pick-Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Waste Management at 952-890-1100 before noon on the following Monday.

If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

Reduce Holiday Waste

'Tis the season that Americans generate an extra one million tons of trash each week. While Minnesota ranks among the top eight states for recycling, these tips can help continue to reduce holiday waste and its effect on our environment.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Fifty million Christmas trees are purchased each year in the US. Consider a potted Norfolk pine or fig tree as a house plant that can serve as a Christmas tree, or invest in an artificial tree. Purchase trees from a tree farm rather than cutting them down in the wild.

CARDS

Each year, 2.65 billion Christmas cards are sold in the US. One less card per person would save more than 50,000 cubic yards of paper. Save time, money, and resources by updating and paring down your list and sending postcards or electronic cards.

LIGHTS AND CAMERA

Smaller bulbs means lower wattage. Outdoor light strands that are wired parallel have separate circuitry, so if one bulb blows the rest will keep shining. Capture holiday memories with a real camera instead of a disposable, and use faster film, such as 400 or 800, to reduce the use of flash and extend battery life. Finally, buy 36-exposure film rolls instead of 12 to reduce waste by 67 percent.

For more information about recycling in Golden Valley, call Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046, or check out the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/RecyclingPrograms.htm.

Toy Packaging

One small toy can come packaged in several different types of plastic, cardboard, and twist ties. If you are buying popular toys, remember that the cardboard can be taken off, flattened, and recycled, and the twist ties can be reused. Plastic packaging is most often not recyclable, but it can be flattened to take up less space in the trash.

Gift Wrapping

The average consumer wraps 20 to 30 gifts during the holidays. Get creative: use scarves, handkerchiefs, bandanas, old posters or maps, coloring book pages, old sheet music, newspaper, last year's wrapping paper, wallpaper scraps, cloth bags, or fabric scraps to wrap gifts. Put jewelry in a wooden box or wrap kitchen gifts in dishcloths.

Packing

Popcorn is one of the best packing materials to keep gifts from sliding around in a box. Include a note reminding the recipient that popcorn is a special treat for many birds and can be composted. If you use packing peanuts, try the biodegradable ones.

sorting materials

KEEP PAPER SEPARATE

Several residents have noted that Waste Management's new recycling trucks have only one opening for recyclables instead of the former three-sort system. A few have called the City to ask if they can now put all recyclables together in the recycling crate.

"Metal, steel, and aluminum food and beverage cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastics with necks can all be mixed together," says Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom, "but residents should still separate paper and put it at the curb in a paper grocery bag. When it is mixed with other recycling, it tends to blow away."

Please continue to place newspapers, miscellaneous paper, phone books, and boxboard together in a separate paper bag and set it next to or inside the recycling crate. Corrugated cardboard can be flattened and placed at the curb next to the recycling crate.

Clean Water Takes Community Commitment

Water, water, water. It's a running issue lately, whether it's in lakes or creeks or coming from a faucet. Why? Well, water makes up the majority of our bodies and an even greater portion of the earth. It may be our most precious resource, and it's one that has suffered years of abuse.



According to the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2000 National Water Quality Survey, 39% of rivers, 45% of lakes, and 51% of estuaries are polluted. Generally, pollution occurs through non-point source (coming from individuals) and point source (coming from industry). Since the 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA), many regulations have been established to slow or stop point-source pollution. A 1987 amendment to the CWA required a two-phase program to address storm water run-off (see below). However, some experts believe non-point pollution remains a big part of the problem.

As the demand for water increases, so does the importance of protecting it. Inside your home or out, there is much you can do to help improve water quality.

How You Can Help

Outside Remember, everything that enters storm water drains eventually ends up in our natural waterways (lakes, streams, etc). To help prevent surface water pollution:

- Direct downspouts onto lawns instead of hard surfaces such as driveways or sidewalks.
- Keep cars tuned, repair leaks, and recycle oil.
- Sweep paved areas instead of hosing debris into the street.
- Clean up pet waste and leaves.
- Limit use of fertilizers and pesticides, and leave grass clippings on your lawn.
- Dispose of chemicals properly (never into a storm water drain).

Inside The EPA reports that some non-point pollution problems can be reduced by improved water conservation because efficient water use reduces the need to withdraw ground or surface water and reduces interruption to the natural water cycle. Further, efficient water use reduces the need for water projects to prevent wetland degradation and reduces the energy needed to treat wastewater. Bottom line: the less water you use, the less demand put on our water resources. For water conservation tips, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/householdwaterdecisions.htm.

How The City Is Helping

The Joint Water Commission (JWC) is dealing with drinking water issues (see article on page 3). As for surface water issues, Golden Valley proactively works to improve local water quality. In 1999, the City adopted a Comprehensive Surface Water Management Plan to provide a complete and intensive guide and reference for managing surface water resources within the city.

In March 2003, Golden Valley and other communities with populations greater than 10,000 became federally required to obtain a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit for managing non-point source storm water.

For more information on Golden Valley's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), contact Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom (763-593-8046) or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/SWPPP/index.htm.

Envision

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Start by getting a group together (ie, neighbors; book, card, garden, or hobby club members; your neighborhood block or church group; your recreation league team; coworkers; etc). Ideal size is 10 - 12 people.

Next, find a meeting place. This could be your home, apartment commons room, a church or business meeting room, or a public meeting space such as Brookview Community Center, Golden Valley Library, Perpich Center for Arts Education, etc. You'll need enough room for participants to sit comfortably, space for an easel that everyone can see, wall area to post ideas, and a TV and VCR.

Then, contact *Envision-In-A-Box* Coordinator Bob Provost (763-377-7494) to schedule "the box" (includes all meeting materials) and a facilitator to run the meeting. Download invitations from the City web site or pick them up from City Hall. Results from your meeting will be integrated into the *Envision Summit*. You can download *Envision-In-A-Box* information at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/Envision.htm.

ATTEND THE SUMMIT The *Envision Summit*, scheduled for 7 pm February 23, 2004 at the Golden Valley Country Club, will feature 50 tables of 10 people discussing and prioritizing the ideas generated from *Envision Online* and *Envision-In-A-Box*. The objective is to develop Vision Statements that will be used by the City Council and other community groups to lead Golden Valley into the future. Watch for more information in the January/February 2004 *CityNews*.

BE A FACILITATOR *Envision* needs facilitators to lead small groups in the activities described above. The ideal facilitator will have previous experience leading group meetings, making presentations, or teaching classes. Depending on your availability, you can choose to lead one event or several. Training will be provided, and facilitators will be matched to groups based on availability. All *Envision* events will be organized and scheduled by other volunteers.

For more information on *Envision* activities, contact Assistant to the City Manager Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014.

There are a thousand stories in the naked city, and chances are, a cop knows every one of them. Maybe so. But if you think a profile of your local police should start with a line like that, you’ve been watching too much TV.

In reality, Golden Valley police do have a thousand stories, but many of them—barking dogs, traffic complaints, neighborhood disputes, false alarm calls, medical response calls—aren’t the stuff of prime-time TV. They are basic to community life and significant to the people who make the calls.

“When people don’t know what to do, they call the cops,” says Officer Craig Smith. Officer Rich Anderson agrees. He says he’s responded to calls ranging from a squirrel in the house to someone who couldn’t turn off the TV.

They also do their fair share of catching bad guys. In the past week or so, Smith made a few felony arrests and was called to a knife fight. Anderson recently talked a guy out of a house who shot two people while high on cocaine.

These days policing is more challenging than ever, thanks to our constantly changing society. Officers are increasingly called to

handle problems caused by people with mental health issues, and it often gets physical. Because of society’s aging population, they are called to assist with more and more medical emergencies. They also must intervene and de-escalate a growing number of family and neighborhood disputes and stay current with emerging technologies and new laws. Such demands require today’s police officers to be educated and highly trained.

Crime is changing, too. “We used to have a burglary a day,” says Deputy Police Chief Roger Johnson, who has spent his entire 28-year career with the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD). “Now we have a burglary a week. Today there are more white-collar type thefts—purse thefts, identity thefts.”

Police say such crimes are on the rise because the payoff outweighs the consequences (if caught, suspects rarely get jail time) and because people make mistakes like leaving purses and checkbooks in cars or other accessible places. Over the years, citizens have helped police lower the burglary rate by reporting suspicious behavior in neighborhoods. Now people can help by taking responsibility for their personal safety and identity. “Everyone knows

when something feels bad,” says Detective Jim Roberts. “Pay attention to that little inside voice.”

People can also help by paying attention to how they drive on city streets. Neighborhood traffic complaints represent another growing segment of police work. In Golden Valley, the speed limit on residential streets is 30 mph unless otherwise posted, and complaints about speeding are common. When investigating complaints, police often find that many of the violators live in the immediate area. (See page 8 for more on neighborhood traffic issues.)

Successful policing requires a solid partnership with the community—a combination of mutual trust and respect that can pay big dividends to the police and citizens alike. “We’re a safe community,” says Public Safety Director/Police Chief Bob Hernz, who started his career more than 27 years ago as a Golden Valley Community Service Officer. “One reason is because people are aware and they call when they see something.”

“If you can articulate to yourself that something is suspicious, it probably is,”

says Officer Rob Zarrett. “Call us and keep an eye on things until we get there. Keep observing so you can give us information.”

“And don’t be offended if police question you because someone called about you,” adds Sergeant Steve Johnson.

As one of Golden Valley’s newest police officers, Brian Sloat was trained by a veteran officer who stressed getting off the freeways and into the neighborhoods and to take note of the regular and the irregular. “I see policing as a partnership with the citizens you work with,” he says. “Not so much solving crime but solving problems. A proactive approach versus reactive.”

“Proactive is making those stops, using your instincts, questioning things, and doing more than answering radio calls,” adds Officer Laura Gould. “I think people want to know we’ll be there to help.”

Golden Valley’s police want the community’s help, too. “Be aware, connect with your neighbors, and call us when something doesn’t feel right,” says Hernz.

For more information about the GVPD, contact Public Safety Director Bob Hernz at 763-593-8059 or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/policedept.htm.

GVPD

working with you to keep the community safe

officer brian sloat



6 months of service with GVPD

“Don’t hesitate to call us, and don’t think you’re going to bother us. We’re not above any calls. Most calls are community concerns—not level one [robberies, felonies, etc].”

detective jim roberts



12 years of service with GVPD

“Keep supporting the stuff we do in Golden Valley like Kids & Cops—the extra programming makes a difference. Realistically, if you’re keeping kids busy after school, they won’t have the opportunity to get into trouble.”

officer rob zarrett



7 years of service, 5½ with GVPD

“We spend a great deal of time at retail establishments dealing with theft issues. Often there are red flags everywhere, but people won’t call us because they’re afraid of being wrong. We’d rather get called and be there to slow things down than get called later. Most of the time they are right.”

officer craig smith



26 years of service with GVPD

“If you see something that looks really funny to you in your neighborhood, where you live all the time, you’re probably right. Thinking about it for 20 minutes won’t help. Call right away. We’ve solved so many crimes with citizen information. We like arresting bad guys.”

officer rich anderson



25 years of service with GVPD

“It’s up to the police to have a good rapport with the community so people will come to you when they need help. It builds trust.”

“Calls about suspicious vehicles are good. We like them. Our burglary rate has gone down the tubes.”

officer laura gould



12 years of service, 1 with GVPD

“Be aware. Don’t fall into the mode where everyone keeps to themselves. When you all work together in an area and communicate with each other, it’s a preventive step. We’d much rather make an arrest than take a past action report.”

sergeant steve johnson



17 years of service, 16 with GVPD

“A number of our calls are because people are annoyed by something someone is doing. Be respectful of your neighbors and surroundings. When you do something, ask yourself how it will affect others. If you have concerns with neighbors, talk to them. Try to work it out.”

bagging a badge

All potential police officers must:

- be a US citizen and have a valid driver’s license
- earn a two- or four-year degree from one of 20 certified education programs. A person with a degree other than law enforcement must complete additional required courses.

- pass written and oral exams, medical and psychological exams, a physical agility test, and a background check
- not be convicted of certain felonies under Minnesota statute

The full-time eight-week police skills course includes instruction in criminal investigation and arrest procedures, Minnesota criminal and traffic codes, patrol operations,

firearms and shooting decisions, unarmed defensive tactics, emergency and pursuit driving, low- and high-risk traffic stops, in-progress crimes and domestic violence, and traffic accident investigation. They must also pass 40 hours of use of force training before beginning 16 weeks of field training with an experienced officer. Upon successful completion, they work as a probationary officers for one year from date of hire.

Throughout their careers, officers must earn 48 hours of approved continuing education credits every three years, including annual training in use of force, first aid and CPR, hazardous materials handling, OSHA personal protection guidelines, and domestic abuse policy review. Every three years they must complete emergency driving and pursuit driving training. They also may attend other specialized training courses related

to investigations and police patrol operations, such as interview and interrogation, crime prevention, narcotics investigation, incident command, sexual assault investigation, SWAT officer, DWI laws and intoxilyzer operator, firearms instructor, field training officer, radar training, advanced accident investigation, and more.

by the numbers

Number of GVPD police officers	30
Average number of years served	12
Percentage serving less than five years	27
Starting as CSO or Reserves	43%
Holding bachelor’s degrees	70%
With post graduate training	37%
Last time officer left for lateral move	1981

City Wraps 2003 STREET PROJECTS

The Brookview Neighborhood Area, Golden Valley's only 2003 Pavement Management Program (PMP) project, progressed ahead of schedule this construction season.

"It was a great year," says City Engineer Jeff Oliver. "The weather cooperated and the contractor [Palda & Sons] was outstanding."

The project is bounded by I-394 on the south, Harold Ave on the north, Jersey Ave on the east, and General Mills Blvd on the west. It also includes the neighborhood south of Hwy 55 and west of General Mills Blvd as well as south of I-394 and west of Winnetka Ave S.

At this point, all the streets in the western portion of the project area have been completed as well as the eastern area streets near and around Lion's Park.

"Nearly all of Brookview Park is completed and the new trails in Brookview Park are about 90% completed, too," says Oliver.

The remaining streets are southeast of Brookview Park and include Ewald Terrace, Laurel Ave (Winnetka to Pennsylvania), Pennsylvania Ave S, Quebec Ave S (Laurel to Pennsylvania and Ridgeway to Western), Ridgeway Rd (Winnetka to Western), and Western Ave (Winnetka to Ridgeway).

Work is scheduled to start in February 2004 on Winnetka Ave between Western and Hwy 55, while the poor soils in the area are still frozen and able to support the heavy excavating equipment. Winnetka Ave will be closed for an extended period while this work is under way.

Completion of the Brookview Area project is expected in 2004.

For more information on the Brookview Area PMP or the City's PMP in general, contact City Engineer Jeff Oliver at 763-593-8034.

Traffic Management Starts With You

Traffic and transportation issues are integral threads in the fabric of suburban communities. Police officers will tell you that a significant number of the problems they deal with each day are related to traffic. Public Works officials will tell you the same thing. Although complaints range from traffic volume to signage to parking restrictions, by far the most common involve drivers who disregard traffic signals, run stop signs, and speed through neighborhoods.

At busy intersections controlled by traffic signals, a significant number of drivers "run" red lights each hour. Many are intentional violations, involving motorists who can stop after the light turns yellow but instead continue, speed up, or even switch lanes to enter the intersection well after the light turns red.



The violation rate is much higher at unwarranted stop signs on streets with a low volume of traffic. A recent out-of-state study by SEH (one of the City's engineering consulting firms), showed that less than 20 percent of motorists actually stopped at the stop signs. Most "rolled" the stop signs, and a surprising number never stopped at all. Other traffic studies have also shown that speeds of vehicles may actually increase on streets after unwarranted stop signs have been installed.

Even speed limit signs have minimal impact of motorists. Lowering a speed limit by 10 miles per hour may only result in a one- or two-mile-per-hour decrease in the actual speeds of traffic.

"Traffic controls are an interesting paradox," says Glen Van Wormer, SEH traffic engineer. "People want traffic signals installed at an intersection to improve safety, but frequently more accidents occur after the signal is in place. Also, installing stop signs without justification based on high traffic volumes may actually increase traffic problems."

How You Can Help

Studies of neighborhood stop sign and speed limit violations show that a relatively high percentage of violators actually live in or adjacent to the neighborhood. In some cases, neighbors who sign petitions to lower speed limits have later been observed (through license plate checks) to be in violation of the existing higher speed limit. Often these are reasonable drivers who simply are not paying attention on a street they are very familiar with. While driving on your neighborhood streets:

- Be aware and alert. Watch for pedestrians and children on or near the roadway. Slow down and look both ways at uncontrolled intersections.
- Obey traffic laws. Keep your speed at or below the posted speed limit (30 miles per hour on unposted residential streets).
- Report serious or repeated violations to the police. If the violation just happened, try to get a license number or a vehicle description and call 911. For all other violations, call 763-593-8079.

How The City Is Helping

To enhance traffic safety in neighborhoods, the City of Golden Valley is working to raise awareness and correct perceptions about traffic issues while maintaining safe streets. City staff will proactively focus on engineering, enforcement, and education programs, and will provide information that can have a positive impact on the driving habits of your neighbors, your family, and yourself.

Watch future issues of CityNews for more articles on traffic safety. For more information, contact Deputy Police Chief Roger Johnson (763-593-8087) or City Engineer Jeff Oliver (763-593-8034).

City Prepares For Winter's Unpredictability

The *Farmers Almanac* predicts the Twin Cities area will get its usual 49 inches of annual snowfall this year. But memories of the 1991 Halloween storm that buried the Twin Cities for four days forever changed the way Golden Valley's Street Maintenance Department views the forecast. "I'll always remember that snowstorm," says Vehicle Maintenance Foreman Steve Loomis. "I worked three days straight."

Since then, Loomis starts thinking about getting ready for snow season as the State Fair wraps up. Around mid-September, he and his two-person crew usually begin changing filters, checking operations, and adding snow removal accessories to 14 different pieces of City equipment, transforming them for winter duty. Once the equipment is ready, the crew remains poised for action. "Whenever they plow snow, there's a mechanic around," says Loomis.

SNOW PLOWING AND SAFETY

Every time it snows, Golden Valley's 14-person Street Maintenance crew covers 120 miles of city streets and about 31 miles of sidewalk. Plowing begins after snow accumulates to two inches or more and stops falling. To keep traffic moving when snowfall continues for long periods, crews focus on main arterial routes and "through" streets that connect neighborhoods to state and county roads. Plowing stops if strong winds and drifting cause unsafe conditions and resumes when conditions improve.

For crews to operate quickly and safely, cooperation from the public is necessary, and appreciated. To help snow plow operators, residents should:

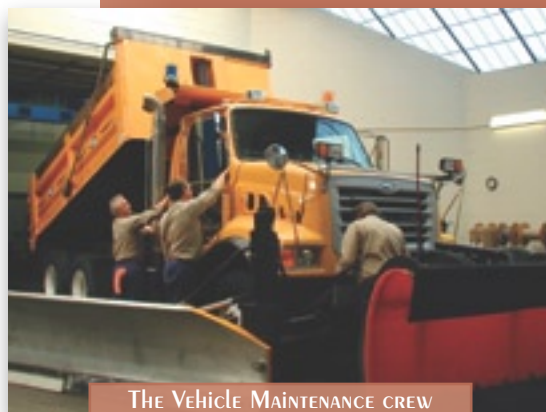
- reduce speed and keep a minimum distance of 50 feet from trucks plowing and spreading sand (frequent backing is necessary during plowing, and visibility to the rear is very limited)
- never drive into a snow cloud or pass vehicles while they're plowing
- stay away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching
- keep sleds and toys away from the street when they're not being used
- don't build snow forts in the snow piles on the boulevard
- keep garbage cans and recycle bins up in the driveway if it snows on collection days

If you have questions about snow plowing or winter safety, call Public Works Maintenance Supervisor Lyle Johnson at 763-593-8081, or visit the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/winterstreets/htm.

ICE CONTROL

Sanding crews use a sand-salt mixture on icy areas. Priority areas are sanded first, and all other areas are done when time permits. Priority areas include:

- intersections of City streets and County and State roads, school and pedestrian crossings, bridge decks, and all arterial street stop intersections
- street intersections having higher than average traffic volumes, and streets with hills and curves
- all other stop signs, and areas deemed hazardous by City crews or Public Safety officials



THE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE CREW PREPARES EQUIPMENT FOR WINTER.

Parking On Public Streets

Parking is not allowed on public streets after a snowfall of at least two inches until snow has been plowed to the curb line.

After a snowfall of at least two inches, supervisors from the Public Works and Police Departments confer and determine when enforcement will commence. Vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police, and those still in violation after 24 hours may be towed. This winter, stay informed of the weather forecasts and move your vehicle from the streets when necessary.

SNOW REMOVAL FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY

Removal of snow and ice from private property to a roadway, across a roadway, or onto a sidewalk or adjacent property is prohibited by City ordinance. Infractions are misdemeanors, subject to fines and prosecution. Snow removed from your driveway or parking lot (whether you do it or hire someone to do it) must be kept off roadways, sidewalks, and adjacent property. If you or your plowing contractor have questions regarding this issue, contact Tom Klatt, Public Works Maintenance Manager, at 763-593-3981.

Plow DAMAGE

The City is not liable for damages to obstacles in the road right-of-way (irrigation heads, landscaping, etc). These obstacles should either be removed from the right-of-way or marked clearly so plow drivers can avoid them. Mailboxes are repaired or replaced only if the plow makes direct contact. Sod damage can be reported to Public Works at 763-593-8030. Damages to sod are repaired each spring with black dirt and seed or sod.

KNOW YOUR WINTER ORDINANCES

Park & Rec Update

Don't hibernate as cooler weather descends. For an array of fun activities, check Golden Valley's Fall/Winter Park & Rec Brochure, or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/prprograms.htm.

Activities at Brookview

Journey Through the Solar System (grades 3 - 4)—Dec 23, 9:30 am - 12 pm, \$18

Kids Club (ages 3 - 5)—Mon and Wed, Jan 5 - Feb 18, or Tues and Thurs, Jan 6 - Feb 12, 9:30 - 11 am, \$34

World Explorers—(ages 4 - 6) Jan 6, 13, and 20, 1:15 - 2:30 pm, \$28

Songs from the 30s & 40s—Jan 8 - Mar 18, 2 - 3 pm, \$60 - \$65

Yoga & Pilates—Jan 8 - Feb 12, 6:45 - 7:45 pm, \$48

Yoga & Pilates with Weights—Jan 8 - Feb 12, 5:30 - 6:40 pm, \$48

Quilling (ages 6 - 12)—Jan 10, 9 - 10 am, \$12

Warrior Woman Workout—Jan 10 - Feb 14, 10:30 - 11:30 am, \$40

Activities at Davis Center

Co-Rec Open Volleyball—Sundays through Mar 28, 3 - 5 pm, or through Mar 25, 8 - 10 pm. Drop-in fee: \$3, 10-time pass: \$20

Shoot Some Buckets (ages 7 - 17 with parents)—Tuesdays through Dec 16, 6 - 8 pm; Fridays through Jan 9, 6 - 8 pm; or Sundays through Mar 28, 3 - 5 pm. Drop-in fee: \$1, 12-time pass: \$10

Youth Basketball (grades 2 - 6)—Jan 21 - Mar 20, Sat afternoons, \$38 (Registration deadline: Dec 15)

Holiday Youth Open Gym—Weekdays Dec 22 - Jan 2 (except Dec 24 - 25 and Jan 1). Ages 5 - 7: 9 - 10:30 am and 1 - 2:30 pm; ages 8 - 12: 10:45 am - 12:15 pm and 2:45 - 4:15 pm; \$20

Four Ways To Register—in person or by mail (address below), by fax (763-512-2344), or online at GV RecConnect (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/prprograms.htm).

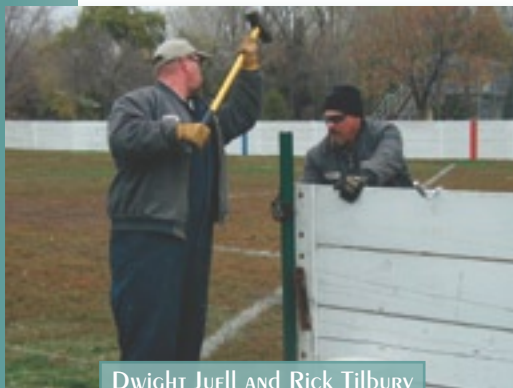
For more information, contact:

Park & Recreation
Brookview Community Center
 200 Brookview Parkway
 Golden Valley, MN 55426
 763-512-2345
 Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm

Outdoor Rinks Are Hot Spots For Winter Fun

Judging from attendance and ice conditions after a weekend of skating, Golden Valley's outdoor rinks are popular winter recreation spots, especially the six hockey rinks. Keeping these rinks ship-shape is a year-around job.

After the ice melts each spring, Golden Valley Park Maintenance crews take down, repair, and store the hockey rink boards. The boards are then painted by summer seasonal staff on rainy days. In early fall, crews evaluate problem areas in the skating rinks and level the surfaces. Crews start installing hockey rink boards in October. It takes a three-person crew an entire day to set up one hockey rink, says crew leader Bob Strandquist. Meanwhile, crews are also installing hand railings and matting between shelters and rinks, putting up fences on sliding hills, inspecting skating lights, and preparing hockey and broomball nets.



DWIGHT JUELL AND RICK TILBURY
SET UP HOCKEY RINK BOARDS.

"After that, it's up to Mother Nature," says Strandquist. "Ideally, it's nice to start with about four inches of frozen ground. Then, we need a week or so of temperatures around 0° to -10°F to get our base ice built. After that, we build "finish ice," with the goal of having the rinks ready by mid-December and winter school breaks."

Depending on weather conditions, all rinks are cleaned and resurfaced Monday through Friday and cleaned Saturday mornings. Double bladed shovels

may be checked out at shelter buildings. During extreme cold or warm weather, rinks and shelter buildings may be closed. Check by calling 763-512-2350 before dropping children off. "Closed" signs are also posted on park shelter doors.

If you have concerns or questions about ice conditions or rink maintenance, call Park Maintenance at 763-593-8045.

skating INFORMATION

Golden Valley's Park and Recreation Department (763-512-2345) maintains skating areas at the following parks:

Gearty	3101 Regent Ave N	H	GS	W
Hampshire	1601 Louisiana	H	GS	W
Lakeview	9300 Olympia		GS	W
Lions	7200 Harold Ave	H	GS	W
Medley	2355 Ensign Ave	H	GS	W
Scheid	1965 Toledo	H	GS	W
Wesley	8305 Wesley	H	GS	W
North Tyrol	4300 Sunset Ridge		S	
South Tyrol	Tyrol & Ortley Pass		S	
Yosemite	Woodstock & Yosemite		S	

H=Hockey rink W=Supervised warming shelter
 GS=General skating rink S=Secondary skating area

Rink Schedule

Rinks open December 19 and close February 16 (weather permitting)

Monday - Friday, 4 - 9 pm
 (10 am - 9 pm on school holidays)

Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm

Sunday, 1 - 9 pm

Holidays

Christmas Eve, 10 am - 4 pm

Christmas Day, closed

New Year's Eve, 10 am - 7 pm

New Year's Eve Skating Special

Scheid Park will remain open until 10 pm for families to enjoy winter fun activities. Hot chocolate will be provided.

Candle Popularity Has Increased Home Fire Risk

As a nation, we love candles. According to the National Candle Association (NCA), seven of 10 US households use candles. During the holidays candle use increases even more and, regrettably, so does the chance for a candle-related fire.

The US Fire Administration (USFA) says the soaring popularity of candles has led to an increase in reported candle fires. Candles are responsible for about 10,000 residential fires each year, 1,000 civilian injuries, 85 fatalities, and \$120 million in property loss. About 40% of candle fires start because a candle was either left unattended or burned too close to combustibles. Candle misuse accounts for about 11% of candle fires, while inadequate control of flame accounts for about 10%. Other causes of candle fires include children playing (8.7%), abandoned material (7.4%), and falling asleep (4.5%).

Because the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) wants you to be safe this holiday season and always, it offers the following candle safety tips.

ALWAYS

- Read and carefully follow all manufacturer instructions.
- Keep a burning candle within sight. Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or before going to sleep.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Trim candlewicks to 1/4 inch each time before burning.
- Use a sturdy, heat-resistant candle holder specifically designed for candles and large enough to contain all drips or melted wax.
- Place candle holders on a stable, heat-resistant surface.
- Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents, and air currents to prevent rapid, uneven burning and the possibility that curtains or papers drift near the candle and catch fire.
- Keep the wax pool free of wick trimmings, matches, and debris at all times.
- Extinguish the flame if it comes too close to the holder or container.
- Extinguish pillar candles if the wax pool approaches the outer edge.
- Place candles at least three inches apart so they don't melt one another or create their own drafts that will cause improper burning.

NEVER

- Burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire, including hair and clothing, furniture, drapes, bedding, carpets, books, paper, flammable decorations, etc.
- Burn a candle for longer than the manufacturer recommends.
- Touch or move a votive or container candle when the wax is liquid.
- Extinguish candles with water. Water can cause hot wax to spatter and glass containers to break.
- Never use a candle in a confined space, such as a closet to look for things.

For more safety and recall information on candles, go to the Consumer Product Safety Commission web site www.cpsc.gov. For more information about fire safety, contact Fire Prevention Specialist Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977 or slarson@ci.golden-valley.mn.us, or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/firepreventioneducation.htm.

SENIOR Stuff

Golden Valley Seniors Program
 Brookview Community Center
 200 Brookview Parkway
 Golden Valley, MN 55426
 763-512-2339
 8 am - 5 pm,
 Monday - Friday

Holiday Supper Party (register early)—December 8, 6:30 pm, Brookview.

Health Insurance Help—December 9, 9 - 11 am, Brookview.

Blood Pressure Screenings—December 17 and January 28, 11 am - noon, Brookview.

Defensive Driving Course—Four-hour refresher at Brookview. January 8, 9 am - 1 pm.

Membership and Travel Day Social (register early)—January 9, 1 pm, Brookview.

Classes (register early)—"Songs From the 30s and 40s" classes begin January 8; Bridge classes begin January 16

Upcoming Trips (register early)—December 10 - 11: Hometown Tradition at Hotel Pattee, Perry, Iowa; January 18: Palace Theater; February 17: Mill City Museum

Five Cities Transportation Program offers rides to seniors for shopping, social activities, and senior program events. For a schedule, see the Seniors newsletter or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/transportshed.htm. To reserve a ride, call the Five Cities office at 763-537-0229 weekdays between 8 am - 3 pm.

Call the Golden Valley Seniors Office to receive the Seniors Newsletter and to register in advance for events, educational seminars, classes, and trips.

SPLIT visions

Got a split-level or split-entry house you'd like to make over?

Split Visions: A Planbook of Remodeling Ideas for Split-Level and Split-Entry Houses offers 34 pages of suggestions for everything from entryways and additions to basements and landscaping.

The Planbook, a joint project of 15 Twin Cities suburbs, is available to Golden Valley residents for \$10 (\$15 for nonresidents).

Books are available at City Hall or by mail. Order forms are on the City web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/yourhome/Split-LevelPlanbookOrderForm.htm). If you have questions, contact the City's Planning Department (763-593-8095).



Join the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) in a unique approach to the Toys for Tots donation effort. For the ninth consecutive year, the GVPD will lead regional law enforcement agencies in a toy drive that culminates in a loud, colorful parade. On the last collection day, police from as many as 20 departments load their police cruisers with toys and meet at the GVPD. Then, lights blazing, they all caravan over to the KARE 11 Toys for Tots drop-off site. In past years the effort has garnered thousands of toys.

Once again the GVPD invites the Golden Valley community to join the effort. Between December 1 and 20 (at 3 pm), bring new, unwrapped toys to the GVPD at 7800 Golden Valley Road (open 24 hours a day). Don't forget gifts for older kids and teens. For more information, contact Sergeant Steve Johnson at 763-593-2505.

Local Crime Fund Needs Your Support

Safety and security are crucial factors in healthy communities. Community partnerships are a vital component in our police department's success in keeping crime low in Golden Valley. The Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund provides essential financial support for a variety of crime prevention and safety programs. Run by volunteers, this private, nonprofit organization is supported by Golden Valley businesses and residents dedicated to creating and maintaining strong community involvement.

Several of Golden Valley's crime prevention programs are youth oriented, including Safety Camp (a two-day safety education program for second, third, and fourth graders); Junior Safety Camp (day-long safety education for four-, five-, and six-year-olds); CounterACT (a drug and violence prevention program for fifth graders); Law, Crime, and Safety (a safety and citizenship curriculum for fifth graders); and Kids & Cops (an after-school program for at-risk middle school students).

Other crime prevention programs include the Senior Safety Fair, National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch, and the I-394 Virtual Block Club. The Crime Fund also provides rewards for information in serious criminal cases.

Contributions are the Crime Fund's only source of revenue. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution. For more information, contact the Crime Fund at 763-593-8054 or cpfund@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

Nancy Azzam, President, Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund



763-593-8000

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